

ITOH

Appl. No. 09/885,007

February 25, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1 and 2 are active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

Attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 16, 2002 which has not been acknowledged in the current Official Action. Attached is a copy of that IDS and counsel requests that the examiner consider this submission in the next correspondence.

The claims have been amended responsive to the examiner's comments in item 1 of the Official Action – the offending expressions have been deleted.

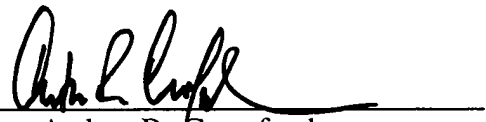
Claim 3 is indicated to be allowable, so the subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1, thus obviating the prior art-based rejection of claims 1 and 2 as stated in items 2 and 3, page 2 of the Official Action.

With this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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